

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 23, 2005. Claims 1-20 were pending. By this Amendment, claims 1-7, 11-14 and 18 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, new dependent claims 21-24 have been added, and claims 8-10 and 15-17 have been amended by rewriting the claims in independent form, and claim 19 has been amended by making the claim dependent from claim 15 (rather than from claim 14 which has been canceled). Accordingly, claims 8-10, 15-17 and 19-24 are now pending, with claims 8-10 and 15-17 being in independent form.

Claims 1-7, 11-15, 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as purportedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,827,424 to Teshigawara et al.

By this Amendment, claims 1-7, 11-14 and 18 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, the rejection is now moot with respect to claims 1-7, 11-14 and 18.

Applicant has carefully considered the Examiner's comments and the cited art, and respectfully submits that independent claim 15 is patentable over the cited art, for at least the following reasons.

This application relates to improvements for printing color inkjet images, and particularly a capability for squirting color inks in a plurality of different sequences.

Claim 15 is directed to a method of printing color inkjet images. The method includes (a) selecting an order of ink squirts based on source color data, including (i) obtaining a gamut of reproducible colors with respect to each of different orders of ink squirts and (ii) selecting the order of ink squirts based on the obtained gamut of reproducible colors, (b) processing the source color data to generate output color data, and (c) printing color images based on the output color data by squirting inks from an inkjet print head in the selected order of ink squirts. Thus, by

obtaining a gamut of reproducible colors with respect to each of different orders of ink squirts and selecting the order of ink squirts based on the obtained gamut of reproducible colors, the claimed invention of claim 15 makes the most of the gamut of reproducible colors and saves ink.

Teshigawara, as understood by Applicant, is directed to a multi-pass printing technique for reducing the unevenness of colors associated with a scanning direction.

Teshigawara, column 11, lines 9-20 states as follows:

“In this embodiment, unless otherwise specified, data expressing each color with two bits and three values (the number of dots corresponds to zero, one, or two) for each pixel is received and reproduced. Of course, the number of bits is not limited to two, but multiple bits such as four bits may be used. Furthermore, even with the 2-bit data form, two values alone may be used. In particular, the number of bits depends on design concepts including the relationship between the printing resolution and the diameter of dots or the level of the gradient or maximum density for each pixel. Accordingly, any number can be used without deviating from the spirits of the present invention.”

Thus, Teshigawara merely teaches that data expressing each color with two bits and three values (the number of dots corresponds to zero, one, or two) for each pixel is received and reproduced, and that the number of bits used for expressing each color may be a matter of design choice. When the data expressing each color is changed from its minimum value to maximum value, such data changes for all the colors would define a range of reproducible colors.

However, Teshigawara does not teach or suggest changing the data expressing each color from its minimum value to maximum value so as to obtain a gamut of reproducible colors. Nor does Teshigawara teach or suggest obtaining a gamut with respect to each of different orders of ink squirts.

Applicant simply does not find disclosure or suggestion by the cited art of a method of

printing color inkjet images which includes (a) selecting an order of ink squirts based on source color data, including (i) obtaining a gamut of reproducible colors with respect to each of different orders of ink squirts and (ii) selecting the order of ink squirts based on the obtained gamut of reproducible colors, (b) processing the source color data to generate output color data, and (c) printing color images based on the output color data by squirting inks from an inkjet print head in the selected order of ink squirts, as provided by independent claim 15.

Accordingly, for at least the above-stated reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 15 and the claims depending therefrom are patentable over the cited art.

Claims 8-10, 16 and 17 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but according to the Office Action would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this Amendment, claims 8-10, 16 and 17 have been amended by rewriting each claim in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter in the Office Action and submits that claims 8-10, 16 and 17 recite subject matter which further supports patentability for reasons in addition to those identified in the Examiner's statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter in the Office Action.

In view of the amendments to the claims and remarks hereinabove, Applicant earnestly solicits the allowance of the application.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Office is hereby authorized to charge the additional claims fees, as well as any additional fees that may be required, in connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Teng", is written over a horizontal line.

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